

STANDING ON THE THRESHOLD

At the close of this day, we will stand on the threshold of 2024, a new year. For those of us in our senior years, it will not be a new experience. But for some, it will be a first time remembered experience. It all depends upon one's age. Stepping into a new year presents challenges as well as opportunities, and at this time 2024's challenges and opportunities are not known to us.

In God's Word we are challenged to "stand," and its use is in opposition to falling or failing. We are faced daily with temptations regarding our thoughts, words, and deeds that will cause us to stumble and fall. Our Lord knows how vulnerable we are to these temptations that come from the devil, the world, and our own flesh. Thus, He admonishes us to stand:

1) Stand upon His Word which never changes and never fails. His heart's desire is that we believe and trust His Word as inspired, infallible, and inerrant. "The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever" (Isaiah 40:8).

2) Stand firm in the faith: "Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith: be courageous, be strong" (I Corinthians 16:13). "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might. . . . Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand" (Ephesians 6:10, 13).

When Jerusalem was under siege and about to fall, God spoke through the prophet saying, "This is what the Lord says: 'Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls'" (Jeremiah 6:16). His words are our good marching orders as we stand on the 2024 threshold. Let us hold fast to His Word, pray much, and walk where He leads. Let us not be as those who responded to Jeremiah's admonition, saying, "We will not walk in it."

Pr. Elden Nelson
AFLC President 2007–2013
Prinsburg, Minnesota

AFLC Promotion for December is All Ministries



Dalton Free Lutheran Parish

Kvam, Tordenskjold & Zion-Sarpsborg Congregations

**"Growing together by God's grace
as Spirit-filled disciples of Jesus Christ"**

Zion-Sarpsborg Free Lutheran Church

December 31, 2023 – 10:30 a.m.

Mark Johnson, Senior Pastor

Dan Hurner, Pastor of Youth & Family Ministry

Office: 218-589-8909 email: freeluth@prtel.com www.daltonfreelutheran.org

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship – Psalm 95:1-2

“Oh come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise.”

Opening Hymn: #34 – **“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”**

Praise and Prayer Time

Confession of Sin

Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess to You that we are by nature sinful and unclean, and that we have sinned against You in thought, word and deed. Therefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy and ask You for Christ’s sake, grant us forgiveness of all our sins, and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to eternal life through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Confession of Faith – The Apostle’s Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, Born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate; was crucified, dead and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven; and is seated on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from where he shall come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy Christian Church, the Communion of Saints, the Forgiveness of sins; the Resurrection of the body, and the Life everlasting. Amen.

Children's Sermon

Worship of God with Tithes & Offerings

Offering Response:

“We Give Thee but Thine Own”

We give Thee but Thine own, what e’er the gift may be;
All that we have is Thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from Thee.

Scripture Readings

Psalm 98 {pg.393, pew Bible}

II Corinthians 2:17-21 {pg.729, pew Bible}

Song of Praise:

“In Christ Alone”

Message

Peter Johnson

Hymn: #607 – **“Be Thou My Vision”**

The Lord's Prayer

Benediction, Threefold Amen

Doxology

Postlude

